



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

LITTLE DAVIE COMING INTO LINE.

The farmers in the vicinity of Jerusalem, Davie Co., met on last Saturday and enrolled a sufficient number to organize a club, which will be done on the 28th inst., at 4 o'clock, p. m., a full account of which will appear in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in due time. We confidently predict that noble little Davie will soon stand among the very foremost in this good work. It should have a strong club in every township within a month.

MAJ. RAGLAND ON CUTTING AND HOUSING TOBACCO.

Do not be in a hurry to begin cutting your tobacco until it is ripe and enough fully and uniformly ripe to fill a barn. A thin butcher or shoe knife, well sharpened, and wrapped with a soft cloth around the handle and extending an inch along the blade will do the work effectually and be easy to the hand. Try it. Put knives into the hands of experienced cutters only—men who know ripe tobacco, and will select plants uniform in color and will cut no other. Have sticks already in the field and placed in piles convenient—sticking a stick vertically in the ground over each pile that they may be more easily found when wanted. Pine sticks, rived three-fourths of an inch by one and one-fourth inch, and two and one-half feet long are best.

Start together two cutters and one stick holder—the cutters carrying two rows each and the stick holder walking between them. The cutter takes hold of the plant with his left hand at the top near where the knife enters the stalk; with his right hand he splits the stalk down the centre (observing to guide the knife so as not to sever the leaves) to within three inches of the point he intends to sever the stalk from the hill; as the knife descends his left hand follows the slit or opening, and when the plant is severed from the hill, by a dextrous movement of the left hand the plant is straddled across the stick in the hands of the holder. When the stick has received about six medium plants, if intended for brights, it is ready to go to the barn, either carried by hand if near or hauled on a wagon if distant. If it is necessary to use a wagon, prepare a bed sixteen feet to hold three coops on piles, on which place the tobacco as cut, after placing twenty-five or thirty sticks of cut tobacco on each coop, drive to the barn to be unloaded.

Tobacco suitable for brights is best handled in this way, as it is bruised less than if handled by any other mode. Try it planters and know for yourselves. Very heavy tobacco will break less if, after being cut by the above mode, the sticks are placed gently on the ground and the plants allowed to wilt before removed to the barn. But tobacco of medium size bruises less to handle it without wilting. Cutting and housing by this mode you never have any sunburned tobacco. For brights, it has been found best to commence curing at once, as soon as the barn can be filled.—*The Industrial South.*

—The *Charlotte Observer* speaks of sample leaves of tobacco raised this year, first crop, by Mr. Elbert, near Charlotte, measuring from 24 to 28 inches in length and from 12 to 18 inches wide. He has six acres of it.

—The *Chatham Record* boasts of a headless live chicken among its collection of curiosities—a chicken with its head cut off, but which still obstinately persists in living.

—Patrick H. Terrell, tried and convicted at Stokes Court for killing Buck Dunlap at Prestonville, was sentenced to twelve years in the penitentiary.

State Items.

—There is a great complaint that cotton is shedding badly.—*Clinton Caucasian.*

—Hog cholera is raging to an alarming extent in Elevation township.—*Smithfield Herald.*

—A convict force of 100 men will be kept in Hyde county improving the public lands by drainage.—*Greenville Standard.*

—A few days ago Mr. J. A. Parham caught a German carp on his fish-trap at Lockville, that weighed nine pounds.—*Chatham Record.*

—Jonathan McKnight killed on the McKnight plantation, about 4 miles from Louisburg, last Friday, 57 high land moccasins.—*Franklin Weekly.*

—On the 16th inst., a mad dog was killed in the neighborhood of Albert Carpenter's, after biting a number of dogs in that section.—*Newton Enterprise.*

—Our ride through portions of Cumberland and Sampson, on our way to Clinton, last week, we were agreeably surprised and much gratified at the improved appearance of the crops.—*Fayetteville Gazette.*

—The next meeting of the New Garden Agricultural Society will be held on the fair ground Friday, August 27th, at 2 p. m., to decide if the fair shall be held in Greensboro or New Garden.—*Greensboro Patriot.*

—A terrible cyclone passed through Dover pocisin last Sunday evening. It was about one mile wide and its course is marked by the breaking off of trees, which can be seen along the Trenton and Core creek road.—*New Bern Journal.*

—Our leaf dealers have not less than 6,000,000 pounds of tobacco on hand. They have acted wisely in holding it until the rise in prices.

—Our warehousemen have sold since last October about 15,000,000 pounds of tobacco. Two thirds of this was bought by our manufacturers.—*Durham Record.*

—Mrs. Sallie Foster, wife of Mr. P. P. Foster, of Oregon, committed suicide on Tuesday night, 10th inst., about 2 o'clock a. m., by shooting herself through the head with a revolver. Mrs. Foster had been suffering with fever which had affected her brain. She leaves a husband and five children.—*Leaksville Echo.*

—The tobacco crop has improved very much, and is looking well. Large crops have been planted in some sections of this county.—A notable change during the last decade in Caldwell county, is the change from the land of sharks of the olden time to fine hogs of improved varieties.—*Lenoir Topic.*

—The latest rattler killed in Pender county, measured, as we learn, over 6 feet in length and 15 inches in diameter, with 16 rattles and 4 buttons. He was killed in Rocky Point township. Those well-versed in rattlesnakes pronounce this one to be twenty years old and upwards.—*Wilmington Review.*

—We have seen a number of samples of the new crop of tobacco. While the color is good, without an exception there is a lack of body in every piece we have seen. It is light and chaffy, with but little life in it. We hope the later curings will show better results.—*Henderson Goldleaf.*

—Some of our farmers have commenced cutting and curing tobacco.

—The corn crop as reported by our farmers is much better than first expected, especially on up land.

—There is a man living in Person county that is 71 years old and never owned a dog.—The recent light showers have greatly benefited the tobacco crop throughout this county. Crops generally are looking well. There is being much hay raised this year also.—*Pender County Courier.*

—The largest yield of wheat per acre in Lincoln county that the *Press* has heard of so far this year was made by Col. W. H. Motz. From one acre he made 46 measured bushels, which weighed 65 pounds per bushel, or over 49 bushels by weight. The wheat was of the Fultz variety and two and a half bushels were sown to the acre.

—Preparations are being made to place an additional ten stamp mill at the Steele mine in Montgomery county. The mine is running with full force.—The tobacco warehousemen say they will sell a much larger quantity of tobacco this season than last, but perhaps the quality will not be so good.—*High Point Enterprise.*

—Mr. J. E. Hough, living about twelve miles east of the city, has eight acres in tobacco, and it is as fine as any in the State. It is his first attempt with this crop, and the prospects are that he will make a great success of it. He has three barns ready to receive it when the cutting time comes.—*Charlotte Chronicle.*

—It is said the Marietta and North Georgia railroad will reach the State line in a few weeks and will be extended to Murphy, N. C., by the first of October. It will thus become a very valuable road, passing through a rich mineral section, and will give the people of our mountain region still another outlet into the great world.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

—A live and healthy cat fish was found in the well of Capt. Sam Smith, near Pineville a few days ago.—On Mr. J. H. Elm's place, near Pineville, there is a peach tree that is somewhat of a curiosity. On one side are ripe, luscious peaches, and on the other side the fruit is small and in a green state. The tree has never been grafted, either.—*Charlotte Observer.*

—The business on the Western North Carolina Railroad Main stem, shows an increase of about 33 1/2 per cent. over last year. The business on the Murphy branch is good, but the effects of the heavy injuries to bridges and trestles in the Spring may much retard the business. It is very fine now. The travel on the Atlantic & Seaboard road is very large and increases.—*Asheville Citizen.*

—Our farmers and merchantile men are decidedly encouraged about the crop prospects. The correctness of our opinion in last issue about the outlook is receiving daily corroboration. It is exceptional that a farmer who has bestowed the labor of a good farmer on his crop does not say his cotton crop is more promising than it has been for years. The same report of the corn crop is almost equally true.—*Monroe Enquirer.*

—A chicken snake measuring six and a half feet long, and six and three-quarter inches in circumference, was killed last week by J. F. Carrick, in Silver Hill.—Mr. Henry Smith, of Silver Hill, has a shoat that strayed off some time ago, and on Sunday before last, it was found at the bottom of a twelve-foot hole at the Peters mine. It was alive when found, and is now recovering from its long fast. It was in the hole forty-one days, just one day longer than Dr. Tanner's celebrated fast.—*Davidson Dispatch.*

—The cotton worm has made its appearance hereabouts. They are reported in great numbers, some stalks being literally loaded with the voracious things. They will go far towards reducing the already short crop to a small yield.—During the heavy rain that visited this city Sunday afternoon, which for nearly an hour was the heaviest that the oldest of our citizens remember ever to have witnessed, the fall of water was two and a quarter inches in forty-five minutes. The streets for the time were like rivers.—*Goldsboro Argus.*

THE NEED OF CO-OPERATION.

We have read with much interest a strongly written communication from Mr. Francis Joyner, one of the thinking farmers of Pitt county, on the subject of co-operation among farmers, which appeared in the *Democratic Standard* of the 3d inst. Referring to the little attention that is paid to the demands of the farmer in national and state legislative halls he places the cause where it rightly belongs—to the fact that there is not concert of action among farmers to bring their claims before legislative bodies, nor to secure representatives in these bodies to urge these claims and insist upon their being heard, as all other interests of the country do. He truly says that it is in a great measure the fault of the farmers themselves that this is so, in so long quietly letting others do the thinking for them and the leading, while they submissively and obediently followed, without questioning the leadership. He thinks it is time that farmers should have a voice in their own government, and some show in selecting the representatives who make the laws to govern. "We need," he says, "schools, where our youths can be taught the practical as well as the theoretical part of agriculture, where they can be taught to think logically and systematically for their own interests; where they can learn self-reliance, where they may be taught to plow, not only for the year's crop, but for the general good of the country, and having plans let them be aggressive enough to lay them before the public. We need training to enable us to lay hold of the labor question as it so rapidly makes its appearance in different localities; we need training and combined action to stand against the pressure of professional politicians and the infringements of the monied men upon our rights and our possessions. It is evident that trained men are few in the agricultural ranks, and that co-operation is a thing unknown among us. The former can only be obtained by the latter; the spirit of combination that has so long made other callings so formidable, has already taken hold upon the American farmers and from North to South and from East to West they are coming together as a unit to work some good for this, the noblest calling in the world.

The people of North Carolina should never rest until she has an industrial school for the education of her youth. Other States have them, our State agricultural department was the second of the States and nearly every other State has one modeled after that of our State. Let us not be the last in a noble enterprise. This question with others of vital importance will come before the next Legislature and our people, if they would have a voice in these matters, as it is their duty to do, must begin to discuss the matter and look out for the men best qualified to represent the interest of Pitt county.

We need progressive and aggressive men, those who are not afraid of criticism but having at heart the interest of the whole State will have the courage to stand by their convictions. The farmers' money has already been misapplied. Money given by the Government for an industrial school in North Carolina has been from year to year devoted to the State University until the amount, interest and all reaches over one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, and no benefit to the farmers yet, except one sends his son there to be educated to some profession. Shall we enquire into this matter or let it pass as before? Fellow farmers, let us stop and calculate the cost of having others to think for us.

This has the right ring in it, and if all the farmers, or even a considerable number of them, talked out as spiritedly as Mr. Joyner does, it would not be long before that land

scrip fund to which he refers would be put to the credit of those to whom it of right belongs. Mr. Joyner errs, however, in making the sum, interest and all, only \$125,000. The principal is \$125,000, and the annual interest which the farmer is taxed to pay is \$7,500. The interest which has been paid and used by the University up to this time amounts to \$82,500, which, added to the \$125,000 principal, would make \$207,500, and if we go back to the time when the Legislature accepted the donation from Congress, and count interest at the same rate, it would amount, principal and interest, to the large sum of \$260,000, a sum amply sufficient to establish and maintain an agricultural college second to none in the country. It is true that a portion of the fund was squandered in the days when legislative and governmental morality ran at a very low ebb in this State, but since 1874 there has been paid regularly by the tax-payers of the State, mostly farmers, the sum of \$7,500 a year, in return for which they have not received a dollar's worth in equivalent, all of this money having gone and still going for the benefit of the University under the pretense lately put forward that there is an agricultural college connected with the University. It is time farmers were asking where is this \$7,500 a year going, and for what, and it is time some one was giving an intelligible and reasonable answer.

THE WHITE INSANE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

By the joint actions of the Boards of Directors of the "North Carolina Insane Asylum" at Raleigh, and the "Western North Carolina Insane Asylum" at Morganton, and by virtue of Section 2,243 of the Code, the Dividing Line between the two Institutions has been changed so as to commence on the Virginia line between Person and Granville counties running south with the eastern boundary lines of the counties of Person, Durham, Chatham, Moore and Richmond, to the South Carolina line; it being the same line as at present established by Act of Congress between the Eastern and Western Judicial Districts of North Carolina.

Hereafter all applications for the admission of patients from the counties west of the said line will be made to the Superintendent of the "Western North Carolina Insane Asylum" at Morganton, and all the applicants east of the said line will be made to the Superintendent of the "North Carolina Insane Asylum" at Raleigh.

Patients now in the Asylum at Raleigh from the counties of Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Montgomery, Richmond and Caswell will be immediately transferred to the Asylum at Morganton.

E. BURKE HAYWOOD, M. D.,
President of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Insane Asylum at Raleigh.

W. J. YATES,
President of the Board of Directors of the Western North Carolina Insane Asylum at Morganton.

Note.—No patient must be carried to either Asylum without the written consent of the Superintendent.

—Speaking of the unthriftiness and waste that prevails to such a great extent on the farms of this State, the *Salisbury Watchman* of last week illustrates by saying that at that time there were probably not less than 50,000 bushels of apples lying rotting on the ground in that county. The same could be said to a greater or less extent of many other counties in North Carolina. A little care and labor would turn this wasted crop to profit, by converting it into cider and vinegar, which would find ready sale. There is ample room in North Carolina for fruit canneries.